



News Release

For Immediate Release
Monday, June 23, 2003
Media Contact:
Heather Bush
HIV Prevention Program
801-538-6096

Utahns urged to “Take the Test and Take Control” With Free Confidential HIV Testing

(Salt Lake City, UT) – Early diagnosis of HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) is important to help manage the disease and prevent the spread to others. As part of National HIV Testing Day, free, confidential HIV testing will be offered on Friday, June 27, in Salt Lake, Midvale, Ogden, Orem, Park City, St. George and West Valley. All locations are offering the simple and painless oral swab method of testing and appointments are not necessary.

In 1995, the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) launched the National HIV Testing Day on June 27 as a way to reach millions at risk with this simple message - “Take the Test, Take Control.” Since then, the campaign has grown to have a major impact on public health in Utah and the USA.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 180,000 to 280,000 Americans don’t know they are infected with HIV, and may continue to engage in behavior that could jeopardize their health and the health of others. Nationally, 50 percent of all new infections are in people age 25 and younger and in Utah new infections are highest in those ages 25-40. So far in 2003, 49 Utahns have been diagnosed with HIV and 61 cases were diagnosed in all of 2002.*

For a list of locations participating in National HIV Testing Day, call 801-538-6096, visit <http://health.utah.gov/els/hiv aids/cts2.htm> or call your local health department.

***Reporters’ Note:** For more data on HIV and AIDS in Utah, visit <http://health.utah.gov/els/hiv aids/whatsnew/hiv aidsstats.pdf>

#